

REMARKS

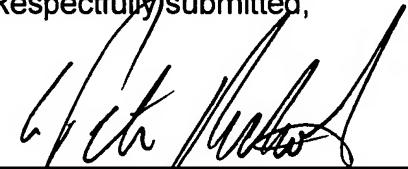
Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP. 0610951 A1 to Thomas Peter Van Iten ("Van Iten"). Applicant respectfully transverses this rejection.

The present claims require the leading edge of the applicator to engage the tampon. Support for this feature can be found at least at paragraphs 27 and 31 as well as Figures 1A and 1B.

Van Iten does not teach or suggest this feature. Rather, Van Iten teaches an applicator with its leading edge engaging the dissolvable capsule which, in turn, houses the tampon. Because Van Iten fails to teach or suggest an applicator that engages the tampon, Applicant submits the claims are allowable over the cited reference.

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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